

Esther

The Feast of Purim

Jeremiah 17:5-10 (NASB)

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Romans 11:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you.

Esther 3:2-8 (NASB)

² All the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman; for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage.

³ Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why are you transgressing the king's command?" ⁴ Now it was when they had spoken daily to him and he would not listen to them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew.

⁵ When Haman saw that Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, Haman was filled with rage.

⁶ But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him *who* the people of Mordecai *were*; therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

7 In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, Pur, that is the lot, was cast before Haman from day to day and from month *to month*, until the twelfth month, that is the month Adar.

⁸ Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from *those* of all *other* people and they do not observe the king’s laws, so it is not in the king’s interest to let them remain.

Esther 4:13-14 (NASB)

¹³ Then Mordecai told *them* to reply to Esther, “Do not imagine that you in the king’s palace can escape any more than all the Jews.

¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Esther 7:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who *were* before the king said, “Behold indeed, the gallows standing at Haman’s house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai who spoke good on behalf of the king!” And the king said, “Hang him on it.” ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the king’s anger subsided.

Esther 8:2 (NASB)

² The king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

Esther 8:9-17 (NASB)

⁹ So the king's scribes were called at that time in the third month (that is, the month Sivan), on the twenty-third day; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, the satraps, the governors and the princes of the provinces which *extended* from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to every province according to its script, and to every people according to their language as well as to the Jews according to their script and their language.

¹⁰ He wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horses, riding on steeds sired by the royal stud. ¹¹ In them the king granted the Jews who were in each and every city *the right* to assemble and to defend their lives, to destroy, to kill and to annihilate the entire army of any people or province which might attack them, including children and women, and to plunder their spoil,

¹² on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar). ¹³ A copy of the edict to be issued as law in each and every province was published to all the peoples, so that the Jews would be ready for this day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

¹⁴ The couriers, hastened and impelled by the king's command, went out, riding on the royal steeds; and the decree was given out at the citadel in Susa. ¹⁵ Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a large crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.

¹⁶ For the Jews there was light and gladness and joy and honor. ¹⁷ In each and every province and in each and every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree arrived, there was gladness and joy for the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the dread of the Jews had fallen on them.

Esther 9:20-28 (NASB)

²⁰ Then Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹ obliging them to celebrate the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same month, annually,

²² because on those days the Jews
rid themselves of their enemies, and
it was a month which was turned
for them from sorrow into gladness
and from mourning into a holiday;
that they should make them days of
feasting and rejoicing and sending
portions *of food* to one another and
gifts to the poor.

²³ Thus the Jews undertook what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them.

²⁴ For Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the adversary of all the Jews, had schemed against the Jews to destroy them and had cast Pur, that is the lot, to disturb them and destroy them.

²⁵ But when it came to the king's attention, he commanded by letter that his wicked scheme which he had devised against the Jews, should return on his own head and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

²⁶ Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. And because of the instructions in this letter, both what they had seen in this regard and what had happened to them,

²⁷ the Jews established and made a custom for themselves and for their descendants and for all those who allied themselves with them, so that they would not fail to celebrate these two days according to their regulation and according to their appointed time annually.

²⁸ So these days were to be remembered and celebrated throughout every generation, every family, every province and every city; and these days of Purim were not to fail from among the Jews, or their memory fade from their descendants.

Luther's Outline Against The Jews

1. Burn all synagogues
2. Destroy all Jewish homes
3. Confiscate all Jewish holy Bibles
4. Forbid Rabbis to teach, on pain of death
5. Forbid Jews to travel
6. Confiscate all Jewish property
7. Force Jews to do physical labor
8. In case the preceding restrictions proved insufficient, expel all the Jews

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The Feast of Purim

Timeline 605 B.C. - 458 B.C.

605 B.C.

Nebuchadnezer attacks Jerusalem & led off 1st deportation to Babylon
(2 Kings 24:1, 10)

586 B.C.

Fall of Jerusalem & the destruction of the Temple
(2 Kings 25:8-9)

538 B.C.

Cyrus' Decree for Jews to return to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel
(Ezra 1:1-4)

535 B.C.

Temple Foundation laid
(Ezra 3:8, 10)

516 B.C.

Temple Completed
(Ezra 6:15-16)

458 B.C.

Ezra's Expedition to Jerusalem under King Artaxerxes
(Ezra 7:6-9)

70 Years of Captivity
(Jeremiah 29:10-14; Daniel 9:1-2)

486 B.C. - 465 B.C.

Story of Ester • Feast of Purim

Ester

The Feast of Purim

605 B.C.

Nebuchadnezer Attacks
Jerusalem & Led Off First
Deportation to Babylon

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2 Kings 24:1

In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant *for* three years; then he turned and rebelled against him.

2 Kings 24:10

At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon went up to Jerusalem, and the city came under siege.

586 B.C.

Fall of Jerusalem & the
Destruction of the Temple

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2 Kings 25:8-9

Now on the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

He burned the house of the LORD,
the king's house, and all the houses
of Jerusalem; even every great
house he burned with fire.

538 B.C.

Cyrus' Decree for Jews to
Return to Jerusalem
Under Zerubbabel

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Ezra 1:1-4

1Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying:

2"Thus says Cyrus king of Persia,
'The LORD, the God of heaven, has
given me all the kingdoms of the
earth and He has appointed me to
build Him a house in Jerusalem,
which is in Judah.

3'Whoever there is among you of all
His people, may his God be with
him! Let him go up to Jerusalem
which is in Judah and rebuild the
house of the LORD, the God of
Israel; He is the God who is in
Jerusalem.

4'Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.'”

535 B.C.

Temple Foundation Laid

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Ezra 3:8

Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, began *the work* and appointed the Levites from twenty years and older to oversee the work of the house of the LORD.

Ezra 3:10

Now when the builders had laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD according to the directions of King David of Israel.

605 B.C.-535 B.C.
70 Years of Captivity

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Jeremiah 29:10-14

10"For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.'

11'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

12'Then you will call upon Me and
come and pray to Me, and I will
listen to you. 13 'You will seek Me
and find *Me* when you search for
Me with all your heart.

14 'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

Daniel 9:1-2

1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans—2 in the books the number of the years which was *revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.*

516 B.C.

Temple Completed

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Ezra 6:15-16

15 This temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar; it was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

16 And the sons of Israel, the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.

458 B.C.

Ezra's Expedition to
Jerusalem Under King
Artaxerxes

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Ezra 7:6-9

6 This Ezra went up from Babylon, and he was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given; and the king granted him all he requested because the hand of the LORD his God *was* upon him.

7Some of the sons of Israel and
some of the priests, the Levites, the
singers, the gatekeepers and the
temple servants went up to
Jerusalem in the seventh year of
King Artaxerxes.

8He came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.9For on the first of the first month he began to go up from Babylon; and on the first of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, because the good hand of his God *was* upon him.

God's Providence

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Proverbs 16:33

The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 21:30

There is no wisdom and no
understanding And no counsel
against the LORD.

Man proposes
GOD deposes

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Psalm 115:3

**But our God is in the heavens; He
does whatever He pleases.**

Isaiah 46:9-10

"Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

Lamentations 3:37

Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded *it*?

Esther 6:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹ So Haman took the robe and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and led him *on horseback* through the city square, and proclaimed before him, “Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor.”

¹² Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried home, mourning, with *his* head covered.

¹³ Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish origin, you will not overcome him, but will surely fall before him."

GOD'S PROVIDENCE

Does Not Negate Human Responsibility